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**From:** Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2019 5:22:59 PM  
**To:** Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]; Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Askinazi, Valerie [Askinazi.Valerie@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Barkas, Jessica [barkas.jessica@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Buster, Pamela [Buster.Pamela@epa.gov]; Canavan, Sheila [Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Caraballo, Mario [Caraballo.Mario@epa.gov]; Carroll, Megan [Carroll.Megan@epa.gov]; Cherepy, Andrea [Cherepy.Andrea@epa.gov]; Christian, Myrta [Christian.Myrta@epa.gov]; Corado, Ana [Corado.Ana@epa.gov]; Davies, Clive [Davies.Clive@epa.gov]; Dekleva, Lynn [dekleva.lynn@epa.gov]; Devito, Steve [Devito.Steve@epa.gov]; Doa, Maria [Doa.Maria@epa.gov]; Drewes, Scott [Drewes.Scott@epa.gov]; Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Edelstein, Rebecca [Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Edmonds, Marc [Edmonds.Marc@epa.gov]; Elwood, Holly [Elwood.Holly@epa.gov]; Farquharson, Chenise [Farquharson.Chenise@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Feustel, Ingrid [feustel.ingrid@epa.gov]; Frank, Donald [Frank.Donald@epa.gov]; Gibson, Hugh [Gibson.Hugh@epa.gov]; Gimlin, Peter [Gimlin.Peter@epa.gov]; Gorder, Chris [Gorder.Chris@epa.gov]; Gordon, Brittney [Gordon.Brittney@epa.gov]; Grant, Brian [Grant.Brian@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Groeneveld, Thomas [Groeneveld.Thomas@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]; Helfgott, Daniel [Helfgott.Daniel@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Kapust, Edna [Kapust.Edna@epa.gov]; Kemme, Sara [kemme.sara@epa.gov]; Koch, Erin [Koch.Erin@epa.gov]; Krasnic, Toni [krasnic.toni@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Lee, Mari [Lee.Mari@epa.gov]; Lee, Virginia [Lee.Virginia@epa.gov]; Leopard, Matthew (OEI) [Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov]; Liva, Aakruti [Liva.Aakruti@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Menasche, Claudia [Menasche.Claudia@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Moss, Kenneth [Moss.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Mottley, Tanya [Mottley.Tanya@epa.gov]; Moyer, Adam [moyer.adam@epa.gov]; Myers, Irina [Myers.Irina@epa.gov]; Myrick, Pamela [Myrick.Pamela@epa.gov]; Nazef, Laura [Nazef.Laura@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Owen, Elise [Owen.Elise@epa.gov]; Parsons, Doug [Parsons.Douglas@epa.gov]; Passe, Loraine [Passe.Loraine@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Pratt, Johnk [Pratt.Johnk@epa.gov]; Price, Michelle [Price.Michelle@epa.gov]; Reese, Recie [Reese.Recie@epa.gov]; Reisman, Larry [Reisman.Larry@epa.gov]; Rice, Cody [Rice.Cody@epa.gov]; Richardson, Vickie [Richardson.Vickie@epa.gov]; Ross, Philip [Ross.Philip@epa.gov]; Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]; Sadowsky, Don [Sadowsky.Don@epa.gov]; Santacroce, Jeffrey [Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Saxton, Dion [Saxton.Dion@epa.gov]; Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]; Scheifele, Hans [Scheifele.Hans@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan [schmit.ryan@epa.gov]; Schweer, Greg [Schweer.Greg@epa.gov]; Scott Selken [spselken@up.com]; Scott, Elizabeth [Scott.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Seltzer, Mark [Seltzer.Mark@epa.gov]; Sheehan, Eileen [Sheehan.Eileen@epa.gov]; Sherlock, Scott [Sherlock.Scott@epa.gov]; Simons, Andrew [Simons.Andrew@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Slotnick, Sue [Slotnick.Sue@epa.gov]; Smith, David G. [Smith.DavidG@epa.gov]; Smith-Seam, Rhoda [smith-seam.rhoda@epa.gov]; Stedeford, Todd [Stedeford.Todd@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Symmes, Brian [Symmes.Brian@epa.gov]; Thompson, Tony [Thompson.Tony@epa.gov]; Tierney, Meghan [Tierney.Meghan@epa.gov]; Tillman, Thomas [Tillman.Thomas@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Tran, Chi [Tran.Chi@epa.gov]; Turk, David [Turk.David@epa.gov]; Vendinello, Lynn [Vendinello.Lynn@epa.gov]; Wallace, Ryan [Wallace.Ryan@epa.gov]; Wheeler, Cindy [Wheeler.Cindy@epa.gov]; Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Williams, Aresia [Williams.Aresia@epa.gov]; Williams, Bridget [Williams.Bridget@epa.gov]; Williamson, Tracy [Williamson.Tracy@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy [Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Yowell, John [yowell.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

**BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES**

### PFAS, the 'Forever Chemicals,' Become EPA Problem: QuickTake

By Tiffany Kary

Posted Feb. 14, 2019, 5:31 AM

What do you do about lab-made chemicals that are in 99 percent of people in the U.S. and have been linked to immune system problems and cancer? Whose bonds are so stable that they're often called "forever chemicals"?

### Give EPA Chemical Risk Data or Face Possible Controls: Attorneys

By Pat Rizzuto

Posted Feb. 13, 2019, 4:50 PM

Information that firms provide the EPA in the next few months could persuade the agency that certain chemicals used in making cars, computers, textiles, and other products don't warrant regulatory scrutiny, attorneys said Feb. 13.

### Roundup Attacks Gut Bacteria in People and Pets, Lawsuit Alleges

By Lydia Mulvany and Deena Shanker

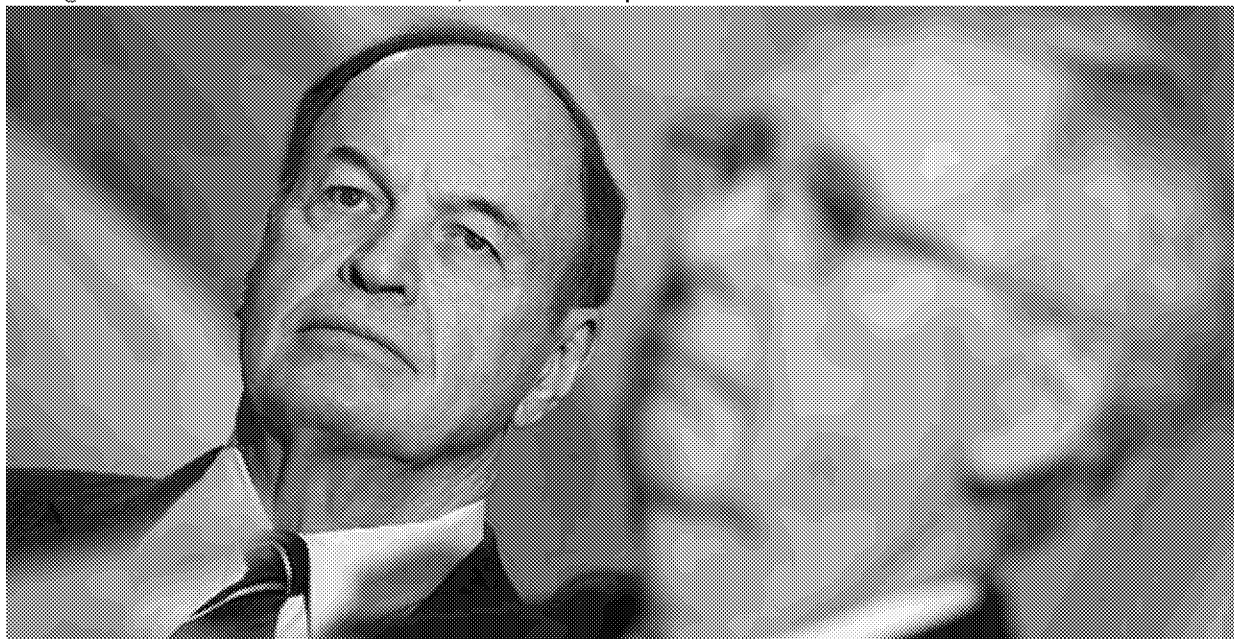
Posted Feb. 13, 2019, 4:16 PM

Monsanto Co. has been sued by thousands of farmers and others who blame their cancers on its massively popular Roundup weedkiller. Now Germany's Bayer AG, which bought the agriculture giant last year, faces a claim that it deceived home gardeners about Roundup's impact on their gut bacteria and their health.

## **GREENWIRE ARTICLES**

### **Negotiators release bipartisan spending package**

George Cahlink and Manuel Quiñones, E&E News reporters



(Left to right) Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have been on the front lines of pushing President Trump to accept compromise spending legislation. Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call/Newscom

Published: Thursday, February 14, 2019

Several environmentally sensitive border areas would be protected and EPA would see a small funding boost in a bipartisan border security and spending package unveiled late last night in hopes of averting a government shutdown tomorrow.

The Senate will go first in taking up the legislation today, and then the House will act later this evening to send the legislation to the president's desk. If the funding deal is not in place by midnight tomorrow, parts of the government will be forced to shut down.

Conferees last night formally signed off on the legislation, which would provide \$1.375 billion in U.S.-Mexico border barrier funding and carry the seven unfinished fiscal 2019 spending bills, including Interior-EPA. The failure to pass those bills late last year sparked the recent 35-day government shutdown.

The legislation contains provisions barring border construction on five sites in South Texas. The areas marked for protection are the National Butterfly Center, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, La Lomita Historical Park and a tract of land next to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge that will be home to the proposed SpaceX commercial spaceport.

Under the agreement, federal workers would get a 1.9 percent pay raise, and the Coast Guard would get funds to buy its first new ice cutter in decades.

The seven spending bills largely reflect bipartisan deals reached at the end of the last Congress by appropriators that were not acted on because of the impasse over border funding.

According to summaries, provided by both Democrats and Republicans, the legislation would provide \$35.6 billion for Interior-EPA for fiscal 2019, a figure about \$300 million above current spending.

The Interior Department would receive about \$13 billion next year, about \$95 million less than current spending.

EPA, which the White House sought to cut by more than \$2 billion, would see a small increase of \$25 million to \$8.8 billion, summaries show.

Both EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund would keep current appropriations.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act grants would get a small increase after being marked for deep cuts by the Trump administration.

The National Park Service would see an increase of \$20 million to \$3.2 billion for fiscal 2019, a notable victory for the agency after the White House proposed a more than \$500 million cut.

The Bureau of Land Management would see a \$14 million increase to \$1.3 billion, while the Fish and Wildlife Service would get a \$17 million cut to \$1.58 billion.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement would get almost \$116 million. The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund would get almost \$140 million, including \$115 million for projects that both clean abandoned sites and promote economic development.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education would be largely level funded at \$3 billion, while the Land and Water Conservation Fund would see an increase of \$10 million to \$435 million.

## Riders

As expected, a host of new, controversial environmental and land policy riders pushed by House Republicans were not included in the final package.

Riders returning from last year include a provision treating biomass emissions as carbon neutral and another exempting certain agricultural practices from the Clean Water Act.

The legislation does not contain any emergency aid for national disasters, nor does it contain any extensions of renewable energy tax provisions.

A provision, pushed by Democrats, to provide pay for contractors who were furloughed during the recent government shutdown was left out, too.

Democrats cheered the yanking of what they saw as objectionable riders, including those related to delisting gray wolves and scrapping the Obama Clean Water Rule. The bills also don't prohibit money for the international Green Climate Fund.

Appropriators stressed that the 1,159-page bill represents a compromise, with trade-offs made by both parties in hopes of averting another shutdown.

"We cannot repeat the disastrous government shutdown, so it is incumbent on Congress to come together to responsibly fund our government. This legislation represents a bipartisan compromise and will keep our government open while funding key priorities," said House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), who stressed that the deal denies funding for a concrete border wall.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said the plan makes a "significant down payment" on border wall construction and wraps up bipartisan work on the fiscal 2019 spending bills.

Other sections of the spending package include:

- NOAA climate research would increase by \$1 million from fiscal 2018 levels to \$159 million.
- The National Weather Service would get \$1 billion, a boost of \$6.6 million.
- NASA would get \$1.93 billion for earth sciences, which includes climate research, a \$10 million increase.
- The Agriculture title would be allocated \$23 billion, a \$32 million increase.
- Agricultural research would get a boost to \$3.16 billion, but the Natural Resources Conservation Service would go down to \$819 million.
- The Homeland Security title includes funding for the first polar security cutter in more than 40 years.
- The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration would get a \$3 million boost to \$275 million.

## Will he sign?

President Trump has not yet said he would sign the legislation, but his tone softened yesterday from earlier in the week, when he said he was "not happy with the legislation."

"We'll be looking for land mines," said Trump, who promised a "very serious look" at the bill and said he appreciated all the work Republicans had done in going up against the "radical left" in negotiations.

The president reiterated that he does not want to force a shutdown. "A shutdown would be a terrible thing. I think a point was made with the last shutdown; people realized how bad the border is, how unsafe the border is. And I think a lot of good points were made. But I don't want to see another one. There's no reason for it," he said.

Notably, Trump is due to fly to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida for the weekend, something he avoided doing during the last lapse in funding.

Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) the head of the Freedom Caucus and a close Trump ally, said the president would either sign the legislation or a stopgap spending bill if there are too many extraneous provisions included in the deal.

Indeed, the Freedom Caucus, which pushed for the last shutdown, introduced a bill yesterday that would provide a week's worth of funding in case Trump rejects the bipartisan legislation.

"I fully expect the government to continue to operate," said Meadows.

<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/02/14/stories/1060121041>

### Prosecutors drop some charges against regional boss

Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter



Former EPA Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn is sworn in by Deputy Regional Administrator Anne Heard at the regional office in Atlanta in 2017. EPA/Facebook

Published: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Alabama prosecutors have trimmed the number of ethics charges facing Trey Glenn, EPA's former Southeastern regional administrator, according to a fresh indictment.

The superseding **indictment**, returned by a Birmingham-area grand jury Friday and made public earlier this week, cuts the charges against Glenn from 20 to 15 and makes changes to the alleged violations of Alabama's ethics law.

While the new filing does not give a reason for the changes, the charges against Glenn stem from the same circumstances that led to the original **indictment** brought last November.

Before taking the EPA job in 2017, he had worked as a consultant for Drummond Co. Inc., a coal firm seeking to avoid financial liability for a Superfund cleanup; at the same time, a business partner of Glenn's in the same consulting firm was serving on the board that oversees Alabama's environmental agency. Last year, a federal jury convicted a former Drummond lobbyist and a former attorney for the company in a bribery scheme related to the cleanup (**Greenwire**, Nov. 14, 2018).

"The facts are the same," said Cynthia Raulston, the Alabama Ethics Commission general counsel who is serving as a prosecutor in the case, during a Monday court hearing, according to AL.com, a news site that initially reported the new

charges. Also reindicted was Glenn's one-time business partner, Scott Phillips, online court records indicate. Both men have pleaded not guilty, AL.com reported.

In a Monday **motion**, Glenn's attorneys asked a state judge to dismiss the charges on the grounds that the Ethics Commission did not afford him statutorily required due process. After serving for 15 months as head of EPA's Atlanta-based Region 4, which covers eight states, Glenn resigned in November, a few days after the original indictment was announced.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/02/13/stories/1060120483>

## CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

### Belgium gears up for voluntary microplastics ban

#### End of year deadline for phase out in cosmetics

13 February 2019 / Alternatives assessment & substitution, Belgium, Microplastics, Personal care



Belgian industry is giving its "full support" to a voluntary agreement to phase out microplastics in all rinse-off cosmetic products and toothpastes by 31 December, a key trade body has said.

Detic – the Belgian and Luxembourg association for producers and distributors of cosmetics, cleaning and maintenance products, adhesives, sealants, biocides and aerosols – and the Belgian environment ministry signed the commitment in January last year.

The agreement, which is valid for five years, commits to:

- communication and training of members to encourage substitution;
- a follow up on scientific and technological developments; and
- other specific actions on the Belgian market.

Ahead of the deadline, Detic has ramped up communication activities and guidance to members, paying particular attention to SMEs, it told Chemical Watch.

It is also planning training courses this year and has been collaborating with the plastics sector, and its parallel associations in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Scandinavian countries and the UK.

Detic has been working closely with the Belgian chemical industry federation Essenscia, which said the voluntary

agreement is an "excellent solution", because it is "in the interest" of all those involved. All signatories, it told Chemical Watch, are "permanently and contractually responsible".

### **Ministry activity**

The environment ministry said it will carry out inspections after the ban comes into force via documentation and laboratory tests on samples of consumer products.

However, it confirmed it will not issue fines if companies are found to be non-compliant.

The ministry conducted a study between October 2018 and January on toothpastes and body scrubs available on the Belgian market, covered by the industry commitment.

Inspectors assessed products sold in high street stores and online. The results will be disclosed in the coming months, it said.

### **EU 'challenge'**

The sectoral agreement will be "adapted [...] in the case of a European ban", the ministry said.

At the end of January Echa published its restriction proposal on the use of intentionally added microplastic particles in all consumer and professional use products. It is expected to come into force in 2020.

An EU-wide restriction would prevent varying controls on microplastics across different member states, some of which have already taken – or proposed – national action. They include France, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

Detic has criticised the restriction dossier along with other industry associations. Its members "are very concerned" and have called on the agency to review the definition of microplastics, it said.

Despite Belgian industry having demonstrated a "very high" level of substitution "well before the deadline" of the sectoral agreement by sourcing biomass products, its concerns remain.

According to Detic, even if substitution is proceeding well, efforts to reformulate products remain "intense", and Echa's proposal – which concerns rinse-off and leave-on products – poses an "incredible challenge" for the sectors.

"There are no known alternatives for many critical functions," it said, adding that "the costs associated with reformulation in a relatively short period of time are very high."

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**Caterina Tani**

## Related Articles

- [Belgium mulls 'total ban' on microplastics in consumer products](#)
- [Echa outlines proposed microplastics restriction measures](#)
- [France to ban microplastics in some cosmetics products](#)
- [Italy to ban microplastics used in rinse-off cosmetics products](#)
- [Sweden proposes ban on microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics](#)
- [UK government reveals draft law on microbeads ban](#)
- [Echa definition of microplastics 'too broad' – Cefic](#)

## Further Information:

- [Draft notification](#)
- [Detic website](#)

## California eyes cosmetics oversight legislation

14 February 2019 / Personal care, United States

California legislators are considering making a commitment to enact a new law aimed at improving the oversight of "harmful" cosmetics.

Existing [California law](#) – the California Safe Cosmetics Act of 2005 – requires cosmetic manufacturers to provide notification for products sold in the state that contain chemicals identified as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity. The California Safe Cosmetics Program (CSCP) collects and publishes this data.

But a bill (AB495) introduced this week, if approved, would "state the intent of the legislature to enact legislation that would improve the oversight of harmful cosmetics" by the state's Department of Public Health. This future proposal also "would require the [department] to investigate harmful cosmetics."

The measure is one of several state-level actions on cosmetics being mulled in this legislative session. Bills have also been introduced on such issues as:

- banning the sale of cosmetics tested on animals (Hawaii SB756 and Maryland SB540, among others);
- - prohibiting triclosan in sanitisers and cleansing products (Iowa SF24);
  - barring the sale of nail products containing dibutyl phthalate (DBP), toluene, or formaldehyde (New Jersey A4543 and New York A1114); and
  - prohibiting the sale of cosmetics and cleaning products containing 1,4-dioxane (New York A4459 and S99).

## Related Articles



- [California ruling requires manufacturer to take action on formaldehyde-containing hair products](#)

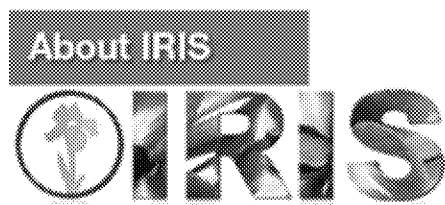
#### **Further Information:**

- [California AB 495](#)
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#### **Thinktank calls for EPA IRIS programme to be scrapped**

#### **NGOs dismiss report as latest in industry campaign to dismantle risk assessment scheme**

14 February 2019 / United States



In the latest development in a years-long battle over the US EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), non-profit thinktank the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) is calling for the programme to be shut down and its functions folded into other agency offices.

Despite strong support for the programme among environmental and consumer advocates, a recent CEI report, *EPA's flawed IRIS program is far from gold standard*, pushes for abandonment or "massive overhaul" of the risk assessment scheme.

Report author Angela Logomasini – who in recent months has defended the EPA's controversial 'science transparency' proposal and pressed for Congressional oversight on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) ongoing work on organohalogen flame retardants – says IRIS "has a long history of sloppy research and lack of transparency that has advanced faulty and often counterproductive regulations that impose needless burdens on the public".

*IRIS 'has a long history of sloppy research and lack of transparency that has advanced faulty and often counterproductive regulations that impose needless burdens on the public'*

"Poorly conducted IRIS assessments have sounded false alarms about risk and produced unwarranted health scares," she adds.

The CEI supports legislation, such as a bill (HR 6468) introduced in the last session of Congress, to move IRIS functions into individual EPA programme offices.

#### **'Excessive caution'**

Ms Logomasini argues that IRIS assessments suffer from "excessive caution". Agency risk reviews, she says, tend to "focus on preventing worst-case scenarios – even absurd ones – and ignore more plausible scenarios, while ignoring more serious risks created by EPA's own regulations".

The report highlights the IRIS review of ethylene oxide (EtO) as an example of where the programme "released such a low and excessively cautious reference concentration" for the widely used medical equipment steriliser that it is fuelling "hysteria" over its emissions.

Uses of EtO for sterilisation are now at risk across the US, says Ms Logomasini, and their abandonment could pose a significant public health concern.

"A reasonable approach would seek to ensure emissions are low enough to protect public health, while benefiting from EtO uses, particularly for important medical applications," she says. "Yet the excessive caution in IRIS assessments has basically thrown such rational approaches out the window."

### **Dissent**

Environmental groups, however, have dismissed the CEI's report as simply the latest in a long industry campaign to take down the programme.

"The chemical industry has targeted IRIS time and time again, because any new assessments that come out of this office may lead to more stringent standards," Genna Reed, a science and policy analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists, told Chemical Watch.

Following through on industry's suggestion to break IRIS assessments into individual programmes, she said, would result in "less than thorough" reviews, because those evaluations would be limited to the scope of that specific agency office.

Daniel Rosenberg, director of the toxics programme at the Natural Resources Defense Council, added that concerns about 'over-regulation' are unfounded.

TSCA, for example, has resulted in "essentially zero regulation of 62,000 grandfathered chemicals in 40+ years", he told Chemical Watch.

*'Industry's scepticism comes from litigation defence strategies, not science-based evidence'*

He also dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that understandable concern over EtO emissions would spell the end of sterilisation of medical equipment.

The NRDC's Jennifer Sass, meanwhile, said that the science underlying both the ethylene oxide and formaldehyde IRIS assessments is "solid", and based on decades of epidemiological and animal studies.

"Industry's scepticism comes from litigation defence strategies, not science-based evidence," she said.

### **Debate over IRIS**

The IRIS programme conducts independent toxicity reviews of substances of concern.

Its findings are intended to inform future regulatory actions by individual programme offices at the EPA and to provide other federal and state agencies with toxicity information.

But a National Academies of Sciences (NAS) critical report in 2011, following release of a controversial draft assessment of formaldehyde, suggested significant reforms. And in the meantime, IRIS has remained under intense scrutiny from industry Congressional Republicans alike.

Last year, the NAS took a fresh look at the programme and determined that the EPA has made "substantial progress" in incorporating its recommendations.

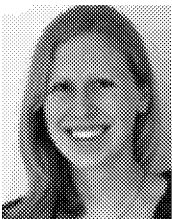
But Ms Logomasini says the programme avoided a more critical review by keeping the scope of NAS's "extremely narrow".

"All the NAS was asked to do was validate the efforts the EPA has undertaken to improve the process, not whether it finally achieved its goals or whether it had substantially improved its assessments," she says.

Ms Reed, however, says that the scope was simply designed to avoid repetition with a 2014 NAS review. The more recent update, she added, shows that IRIS has "made serious improvements with regard to transparency and implementing other programme changes".

The EPA told Chemical Watch it "recognises the importance of conducting assessments based on sound science – and of conducting them in a timely and transparent manner". This is why it continues to "press for improvements in the IRIS programme".

To ensure greater accountability and bring further stability and confidence, it has instituted a process where EPA programmes request priority assessments, and clearly outline information needs and a timeline. This review process was recently completed, it said, and IRIS is moving forward with 11 priority assessments.



**Kelly Franklin**  
North America editor

### Related Articles

- [Thinktank defends US EPA 'science transparency' proposal](#)
- [US EPA formally issues 'science transparency' proposal](#)
- [Thinktank presses Congress to oversee CPSC on flame retardants](#)
- [US CPSC investigates possible action against organohalogen flame retardants](#)
- [House committee advances bill to abolish IRIS](#)
- [Ethylene oxide is carcinogenic if inhaled, says US EPA](#)
- [US Congress considers bill to increase impact of IRIS risk assessments](#)
- [US EPA's formaldehyde assessment not good enough, says National Academy of Sciences](#)
- [Formidable formaldehyde](#)
- [US EPA draft assessment says formaldehyde is carcinogenic](#)

- [Partisan debate over IRIS continues in US](#)
- [Report finds 'substantial progress' in IRIS programme](#)
- [Report to US Congress finds 'substantial improvements' in IRIS](#)
- [US and Canada release risk assessment plans for coming years](#)

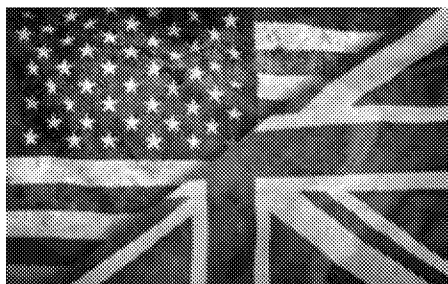
#### **Further Information:**

- [Report](#)
- [EPA IRIS](#)

#### **US-UK trade talks a chance for greater regulatory 'efficiencies' – ACC**

#### **Industry shares perspectives at post-Brexit negotiating objectives hearing**

14 February 2019 / REACH, UK, United States



Post-Brexit trade talks between the UK and the US provide an opportunity to "create greater efficiencies within and between" both regulatory systems, the American Chemistry Council said.

Britain is expected to leave the European Union on 29 March and has been negotiating deals with countries outside the trade bloc.

ACC international trade director Ed Brzytwa gave comments at a US trade department public hearing on negotiating objectives for a US-UK trade agreement on 29 January.

He said the ACC is encouraging the US and the UK to "build on progress" made on talks related to regulatory cooperation during the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the ongoing US-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC).

These have, according to Mr Brzytwa, created a "distinct track" for regulatory cooperation for the chemical sector and are "informative" models.

Non-tariff barriers, he said are "somewhat of a tricky area because we're not advocating for the elimination of regulation in the UK". The ACC, he added, assumes the UK will be part of REACH after it leaves the EU.

Written comments by Eva Hampl, a senior trade director at the United States Council for International Business (USCIB), echoed this. The UK's continued participation in REACH "should not preclude" the US and Britain from "engaging in efforts to enhance regulatory cooperation in the assessment and management of chemical substances", she said.

Opening trade talks could also bring structured conversations about things that are important to the US chemical sector, Mr Brzytwa said. These include "risk-based approaches, science-based approaches to chemical regulation, how you prioritise certain types of issues, how you create greater alignment, but not necessarily changing the regulations".

Outside of these specific talks, he identified the need for "greater alignment" on the implementation of the UN's globally harmonized system on chemical classification and labeling (GHS) as "priority number one".

### **Risk and hazard**

Meanwhile, in its written comments specialty chemicals group Socma called for a trade agreement that promotes customs and regulatory cooperation and eliminates technical barriers to trade.

These barriers pose "significant challenges" to the specialty chemical industry because the the US utilises risk-based analysis while the EU system incorporates a precautionary hazard classification system. "An integrated, risk-based approach would greatly reduce regulatory burdens on specialty chemical manufacturers, many of whom are small- and medium-sized enterprises," it said.

The agreement, Socma added, "should promote alignment and efficiencies in the areas of information sharing (while protecting CBI), hazard classification, risk assessment, and the mutual recognition of good manufacturing practices."

The UK Chemical Industries Association told Chemical Watch it welcomed the testimony given by the ACC to the US Trade Representative.

"We also appreciate the ACC calls for greater regulatory cooperation to avoid inefficiencies such as duplicate testing," the CIA added. "In earlier written evidence submitted by ACC to USTR it was recognised that the UK would expect to remain closely aligned to EU REACH – this is helpful and allows both sides to focus discussions on efficiencies rather than hard-to-deliver mutual recognition of standards."

### **Harmonisation**

The trade agreement presents "an important opportunity to achieve harmonisation or alignment for these regulations", Nate Herman, senior vice president for supply chain at the American Apparel and Footwear Association said.

The UK and the US maintain an "extensive array" of product safety chemical management and labelling regulations regarding clothes, shoes, travel goods and textiles, he added.

While in "many cases" they intend to achieve the same goal "they often contain different requirements such as testing or certification requirements that greatly add to compliance costs".

He gave the example of the US and Britain both regulating phthalates in child care articles "yet only the US applies the rules, incorrectly in our view, to children's pyjamas".



**Luke Buxton**  
EMEA desk editor

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- [Industry: inconsistent chemical naming hinders Canada-US regulatory alignment](#)

## Further Information:

- [Hearing transcript](#)
- [ACC written comments](#)
- [US-Mexico-Canada Agreement sectoral annex](#)
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## Echa considers reopening concluded REACH evaluation in 'exceptional' move

### France would take over from Finland on resorcinol evaluation

14 February 2019 / Ecotoxicology, EDCs, Finland, France, Personal care, REACH



Echa is considering reopening a substance evaluation for resorcinol, under the Community rolling action plan (Corap).

Finland closed its evaluation in 2017 but France is now proposing to relist the chemical because it believes further investigation into its environmental effects is required. No other substance has ever been considered for a repeat Corap listing.

Resorcinol is listed in a draft Corap update 2019-2021, which Echa's Member State Committee (MSC) discussed during its meetings in December 2018 and February 2019.

Reintroducing a chemical to Corap "really is exceptional", said MSC chair Watze de Wolf. "Reintroductions are to be avoided." The MSC noted comments from an industry observer that revisiting evaluations could make the Corap process "unpredictable".

## Potential EDC

Finland first put resorcinol forward for evaluation because of concerns that it is a potential endocrine disrupting chemical (EDC). The substance is used in hair dyes and cosmetic products as well as being an industrial intermediate for chemicals such as flame retardants and industrial dyes. In hair dyes, the chemical reacts with a developer chemical to produce the required colour. It is not manufactured in the EU but is imported in volumes of 10,000-100,000 tonnes a year.

The Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes) closed its substance evaluation in October 2017 without asking registrants for additional information. Its "conclusion" document pointed to studies suggesting that resorcinol may affect thyroid function, with a thyroid peroxidase (TPO) mode of action, but also found significant data gaps. Tukes decided not to ask for more test data but opted for a risk management option analysis (RMOA) to help decide whether resorcinol could be considered a substance of very high concern (SVHC) or proposed for restriction under REACH.

But the French competent authority for REACH is "convinced" that the substance requires further investigation as a potential environmental EDC, according to MSC minutes. France and Finland have "slightly different views on available data and the conclusions you could draw", said Dr de Wolf. "There is a possibility for France now to start the substance evaluation process," he added. Member state competent authorities can then review a draft decision and "we can start resolving those diverging views", he said.

## RMOA

Finland published its RMOA conclusions in 2018, suggesting that current evidence does not highlight an SVHC or REACH restriction route. Instead it focused on changes to classification and labelling. It pointed out that resorcinol is only used on industrial sites and exposure of consumers to the substance in products "has been excluded", based on information in its registration dossier. The RMOA also suggests that the thyroid studies had used "unrealistic exposure conditions".

The MSC adopted its Opinion on the draft Corap update during its February meeting. Echa now has to decide whether to include resorcinol in the update. The agency has already clarified that the evaluation could be reopened legally.

The intention to reintroduce resorcinol to Corap was flagged during the Chemical Watch 2019 Outlook webinar broadcast on 30 January.



**Dr Emma Davies**  
Reporter

## Related Articles

- [Finland starts RMOA on potential EDC resorcinol](#)

#### Further Information:

- [Substance evaluation document](#)
- [RMOA conclusion](#)
- [MSC minutes](#)
- [Corap](#)

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